

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-11 SAM-01 SAB-01

ACDA-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 /081 W

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O R 221045Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8263

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR DAY - IMMEDIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN DRAPER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS.

1. AT 10:45 THIS MORNING, JAN 22 GENERAL AGREEMENT WAS
ANNOUNCED ON THE BASIS OF THREE POINTS:

A. A LEBANESE-SYRIAN PALESTINIAN HIGH MILITARY COMMITTEE
IS FORMED TO DRAW UP ARRANGEMENTS FOR A CEASEFIRE AND
RESTORATION OF NORMAL LIFE AND TO SUPERVISE CEASEFIRE'S
IMPLEMENTATION;

(B) FORMATION OF SEVERAL SUBSIDIARY SUPERVISORY COMMITTEES
TO OVERSEE IMPLEMENTATION IN DIFFERENT REGIONS OF BEIRUT
AND LEBANON; AND

(C) HIGH MILITARY COMMITTEE TO DETERMINE THE TIME
CEASEFIRE WILL ENTER INTO EFFECT AND ANNOUNCE STAGES
OF IMPLEMENTATION.

2. I WAS TOLD LAST NIGHT THAT CEASEFIRE HAD BEEN AGREED
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UPON AND DELAY IN ANNOUNCING IT APPEARS TO ME MORE OF A GOOD

THAN A BAD SIGN. LEARY OF CEASEFIRES WHICH HAVE FAILED IN THE PAST, THOSE WHO HAVE AGREED ON THIS CEASEFIRE ARE CLEARLY BEING CAUTIOUS ABOUT ANNOUNCING ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND TIME IT TAKES EFFECT. THIS SUGGESTS THEY ARE MAKING SURE TO GET WORD OUT TO THE FORCES INVOLVED BEFORE CEASEFIRE TAKES EFFECT, SO THAT IT WILL NOT BE BROKEN IMMEDIATELY.

3. IT IS OF COURSE POSSIBLE THAT ALL PARTIES HAVE NOT YET AGREED TO CEASEFIRE OR POLITICAL SETTLEMENT WHICH IS BEING NEGOTIATED IN FIRST INSTANCE AMONG FRANGIE, ASAD AND ARAFAT. SEVERAL INFORMANTS HAVE TOLD US VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THESE AGREEMENTS ARE ACCEPTABLE TO THOSE THREE BUT ASSENT FROM LEADERS SUCH AS JUMBLATT ON THE LEFT AND GEMAYEL AND CHAMOUN ON THE RIGHT ARE STILL REQUIRED ON CERTAIN POINTS. IN PARTICULAR, FIFTY-FIFTY DIVISION OF PARLIAMENTARY SEATS MAY NOT YET BE COMPLETELY THRASHED OUT AND WHO GUARANTEES AGREEMENT MAY ALSO BE OUTSTANDING QUESTION. ONE REPORT HAS IT THAT FRANGIE AT LEAST HAS AGREED SYRIANS WILL GUARANTEE AGREEMENT. NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONTINUING AT VERY FAST PACE.

4. MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, NIGHT AND INTO MORNING. CENTER OF TOWN AND HOTEL DISTRICT RELATIVELY QUIET TODAY WITH ONLY ISOLATED EXPLOSIONS AND SHOOTING. INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES BARRACKS WAS OVERRUN BY LEFTISTS YESTERDAY BUT THEN REPORTEDLY EVACUATED WHEN PHALANGE-CHAMOUNISTS THREATENED TO TAKE OVER ISF POST IN THEIR SECTION OF TOWN. INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES AROUND COUNTRYSIDE APPEAR TO BE UNDER PRESSURE, THOUGH WE HAVE CONFLICTING REPORTS ON EXTENT TO WHICH PLA UNITS ARE ACTUALLY ENGAGED IN FIGHTING EAST OF ZAGHORTA, IN ZAHLE AREA AND ELSEWHERE. MY OVERALL IMPRESSION IS THAT MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS CONTINUE AND THREATS OF FURTHER ESCALATION REMAIN BUT ALL PARTIES ARE MORE OR LESS POISED, WAITING FOR OUTCOME OF POLITICAL TALKS.

5. A PHALANGE SOURCE HAS JUST TOLD EMBASSY SUPPLIES RUNNING LOW IN CHRISTIAN-HELD AREAS OF BEIRUT, INCLUDING SOME MOUNTAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AREAS, AND MORALE UNDER PRESSURE. THREATEND RIGHTIST ATTACK ON NABAA DISTRICT HAS STILL NOT TAKEN PLACE, NOR HAVE LEFTIST FORCES PRESSED THEIR ADVANTAGE IN DAMOUR AREA AGAINST CHAMOUN HOME TOWN OF SAADIYAT. TODAY WILL OBVIOUSLY BE ANOTHER CRITICAL DAY.

6. FINALLY, ONE BIOGRAPHIC NOTE: SABRI HAMADE, PROMINENT SHI'A LEADER AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF

DEPUTIES, DIED IN AUB HOSPITAL YESTERDAY AT AGE 74,
FROM HEART PROBLEMS.
LAMBRAKIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS, DEATHS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT00690
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760024-0613
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760133/aaaabcmo.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 0900 LEBANON REPORT DELIVER TO NEA/ARN DRAPER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS.
TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE, (HAMADE, SABRI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006